Handling over of sick NTC Mills to Workers

782. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finally decided to hand over 42 sick NTC mills to workers;

(b) whether any criteria has been fixed for handing over such mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of total sick textile mills finally decided to be closed alongwith those handed over to workers State-wise and mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Government is willing to support any viable proposal for cooperativisation of NTC mills (provided it bears the consent of all parties concerned). However, no concrete proposal in this regrd has been received so far.

Problems of Azam Jahi Mills

783. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation dated the 12th January, 1993 has been received from Azam Jahi Mills Employees Union, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to look into the problems of Azam Jahi Mills;

(c) whether some officials of NTC New Delhi visited this mill on the 20th November, 1992;

(d) if so, what are the proposals and suggestions made by the visiting team of officials; and

(e) what decision has been taken by Government on such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Azam Jahi Mills Employees' Union Warangal have, from time to time, requested inter-alia, that the mills be modernised to ensure its continued operation.

(c) and (d) A team consisting of Senior Officers of NTC, State Government and representatives of Labour Unions visited Azam Jahi Mills and opined that the mill could be made viable with substantial investment in modernisation.

(e) Azam Jahi Mills, Warangal has been identified to be non-viable due to inter-alia, recurrent losses, low productivity, high man machine ratio etc. The question of closure or retention of individual mills of NTC will depend on the impact on viability of labour rationalisation now being done through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other relevant factors. An offer has also been made to the workers that the mill would be handed over to a Workers' cooperative, if workers come up with a concrete proposal with the concurrence of all parties concerned to this effect.

Lack of Credit Facilities for Sericulture Scheme

784. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of government has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "sericulture scheme lacking credit flow" as approved in the Economic Times dated the 18th January, 1993;

(b) whether it is a fact that several World aided sericulture schemes could not be implemented effectively due to lack of credit flow; and

(c) if so, what steps Government has taken to implement the schemes and to ease credit flow for the sericulture industry?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Sericulture Project (NSP) outlay of Rs. 555 crores includes credit component of Rs. 165 crores for on & of farm activities. The shortfall in credit flow under NSP is attributed largely to factors like defaults, inaligibility of bank branches to finance etc. However, the slow pace of credit flow has not resulted in a delay in establishing infrastructure, extension of mulberry acreage etc. envisaged under the project.

In order to speed up the credit flow under NSP, the Central Silk Board has organised a large number of workshops and orientation programmes.

Revival of Country's Jute Economy

785. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Wll the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered committee under chairmanship of the Secretary Ministry of Textiles has recommended a comprehensive policy package for the revival of the country's jute economy; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the package and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The thrust of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee is that the future of the jute sector lies in the recognition of the full potential of jute as a fibre in diversified and applications. Technical advances and price factors render it impossible for the jute economy to sustain its existence on the production of packaging materials alone. It is, therefore, imperative for the jute sector to restructure itself. Diversification would help increase value realisation, production of intermediate raw materials like yarn and fabrics leading to higher employment in the decentralised sectors for production of variegated products. This would lead the renewed demand for jute fibre that would help farmers to realise more remunerative prices for their produce. The Committee has recommended support for diversification through margin money assistance and tie up arrangements in all allied fields viz; improvement in productivity and quality of raw jute, interface between entrepreneurs and R&D institutions on the one hand and financial institutions and marketing channels on the other for transfer of technology etc.

Action has already been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Need for Upgradation of Technology for Export of Coir Products

786. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent development of geo-fabrics and coir polymer composites have opened up new avenues for export of coir products in a bigway; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have initiated to up-grade the technology with the changing export scenario indicating break-up during the last five years year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The export of Coir Geo-fabrics has shown a steady growth in the past few years, the figures for which are given below:

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	65.93
1991-92	144.93
1992-93 (April—Dec. 1992)	73.14

However, Poly Coir which is a new product developed in collaboration with the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum, has not yet been standardised and its production has also not been commercialised so far.

(b) The Coir Board and the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum are in the process of arranging technology transfor to commercially viable units, for the commercial production of Poly Coir. The expenditure so far incurred on the